

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A method for eliminating a harmful substance from an organic exhaust gas, comprising:

- providing the organic exhaust gas including the harmful substance;
- contacting the organic exhaust gas with a treating liquid so as to dissolve the harmful substance into the treating liquid and provide treated exhaust gas;
- providing a biological filter medium supporting bacteria, the biological filter medium having opposite first and second surfaces; and
- supplying the treating liquid containing the harmful substance to the biological filter medium from opposite first and second directions to the opposite first and second surfaces, so that the harmful substance is biochemically degraded by the bacteria supported by the biological filter medium.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A method for eliminating a harmful substance according to claim 15, wherein the bacteria are aquatic microbes.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A method for eliminating a harmful substance according to claim 15, wherein the bacteria are selected from a group consisting of genus Zoogloea, genus Bacillus and genus Pseudomonas.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A method for eliminating a harmful substance according to claim 15, further comprising contacting the treated exhaust gas with an active carbon so as to absorb the harmful substance remaining in the treated exhaust gas into the active carbon.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A method for eliminating a harmful substance according to claim 15, wherein the treating liquid is circulated only in a system for treating an organic exhaust gas comprising at least the gas-liquid contact process and the biochemical degradation process.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A method for eliminating a harmful substance according to claim 15, further comprising supplying bubbled air throughout the biological filter medium.

Claims 21-22 (Canceled)